

Brushy Creek Trail Advisory Board Minutes

October 16, 2007, 6 p.m.

Prairie Resource Center

The tour was canceled due to closed trails. Present for the meeting were: Donna Christensen, Chad Kelchen, Tom Bice, Kristi Schaaf, Mike Tinkham, Myron Groat, Kevin Szcodronski, Amber O'Neill, Pat Bormann, and Greg VanFosson. Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

Pat Bormann of USDA Rural Development presented a ceremonial check in the amount of \$6500 to Brushy Creek park staff. Brushy Creek Rec Area was awarded a Community Facilities Grant that will partially fund the purchase of a recreational trail vehicle, an automatic external defibrillator, and a first aid kit for emergency response situations.

There was a brief discussion of the "Spotlight Picnic" to update those that were unable to attend. The low turnout was disappointing but those who did attend enjoyed a nice bus tour of the area and presentations by Bill Johnson, Prairie Biologist, Deb Lewis of the state preserves board, and Naturalist Erin Meehan.

Chad showed the group some new mile marker trail posts we are working on that have the numbers routed into 4X6 posts. There have been complaints that the current ones are much too small and hard to see. Also on display was a sample of the geoweb being used on any steep sloped on the rock trail. When expanded, it forms 4-inch honeycomb cells that hold the rock in place.

Because the tour was canceled, a power point of all-weather trail photos was shown. The project is approximately 75% complete. The ultimate goal is to have it finished as soon as possible next year. Some of the work can not be completed until terraces are put into place.

Unfortunately we had 2 fatalities this spring when 2 gentlemen went over the spillway in their boat and our camp host of 3 years, Paul Eckman passed away over Labor Day weekend.

Plans for cabin development are still being pursued using a private source to fund and manage the cabins. The electrical infrastructure will be put in place next year.

In the second year of the reservation system, things are going well. According to Kevin, some would like to see even more than 50% of the sites available for reservation. Statewide, camping has been on the increase over the last two years. At Brushy Creek we are remaining very steady in camp numbers. As of November, we are within \$2,000 of last year's total revenue.

This past summer has seen a lot of horse-driven wagon use in the park. Some groups have asked if they can use the new rock trail. As of now, the answer has been no, because not all of the trail would be accessible and there would be a congestion/safety issue with other trail users.

Myron brought up the point that Brushy Creek seems to have lost some "popularity" as far as not being as well-publicized for its fishing as it has in the past. In order to answer questions and to explain the fishery at Brushy Creek Lake, we will invite Fisheries Biologist Lannie Miller to attend the spring meeting.

The Emerald Ash Borer has not yet been located in Iowa.

The board members' 3 year terms (with the exception of Bice) required renewal as of July 1, 2007. Kevin will continue to work with legislators to change the appointment process, but in the meantime each of you will need to contact your local legislators for confirmation to the board for another term.

The next meeting will be held April 15th at 6 p.m. with a 4 p.m. tour. Meet at the Prairie Resource Center.